

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases, comprising:
 - a catalyst support having tubular passages through which exhaust gases flow in an axial direction;
 - a coating layer formed on a surface of the catalyst support and composed of zeolite, refractory inorganic oxide, and a first catalyst metal loaded on a surface of the refractory inorganic oxide; and
 - a second catalyst metal loaded on a front stage part of the coating layer, which is an upstream end of the exhaust gas flow, and/or a rear stage part of the coating layer, which is a downstream end of the exhaust gas flow.
2. A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein axial length of said front stage part and said rear stage part are respectively one-third to one-tenth of that of said catalyst for purifying exhaust gases.
3. A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein said coating layer comprises:
 - a HC-adsorbing layer composed of said zeolite and formed on the surface of said catalyst support; and
 - a catalyst-contained layer composed of said refractory inorganic oxide and said first catalyst metal and formed on the HC-adsorbing layer.
4. A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein said first catalyst metal comprises at least one element selected

from a group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

5. A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein said second catalyst metal comprises at least one element selected from a group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

6. A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein said refractory inorganic oxide is alumina.